

Outline (Week 10)

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, *Rajmohan's Wife*

The Sensation Novel

- Hali?
- “a laterally inclined sense of the Victorian, apart from delinking it from the circumscription of national-racial boundary lines... , helps us better to understand the structures of power and institutional authority as they insinuated themselves through those linked categories” (478)
- Banerjee discusses the lateral sense of the Victorian in the context of Indian literature. Do we have anything to say about British literature through this lens?
- What do we make of the “language of excess” as compensation for a need for loyalty?
- Sensation novels as morality stories

Other criticism readings

- Chaudhuri
- Jameson and “third-world texts”? I am just really perplexed as to why anyone would say that.
- “The woman protagonist in *RW* signals a dangerous excess that domesticity cannot absorb” (43).
 - Again with the excess, except here, there’s the foil that the excess is intolerable.
- The male task of constituting the female subject
 - Do we see this in the other novels? I’m trying to invoke the lateral Victorian here.
- Colonial Uncanny
 - I’m unsure as to the definition of uncanny here (Rachel?)
- Chaudhuri’s tracing of Mathur’s house reminds me of Jameson’s floor-plan.
- What is *habitus*?

Print

- Joshi
- Laura?
- At the time of writing this, I’m still going through the reading.

Realism

- Seminar Paper
- I think I'm still iffy on semiotics and reference, but it seems like Mohanty is making a statement about literary realism that isn't contradictory, but also very different from Barthes's. How right/wrong am I?
- What do we think about Mohanty's argument?
- **My questions:**
- When we discuss realism, are we trying to get at the "right" one?
- If so, once we get it... what then?
- How culturally bound is realism?

Other things about RW

- Question about the criticism: All of the writing we read for this week presented some form of historicizing. Is there something about reading colonial texts that demands historicizing?
- World literature?
- Who is the protagonist? Is there one? Several?
- Why is the ending so strange? It could be that Bankim rushed to finish it, but I want to pick it apart a bit more.
- I am particularly interested in what I call the "untranslatables". What kind of work does that do?